



Memorandum

Date: Friday, May 31, 2013

To: Transportation Committee

From: Peter Hahn, Director

Subject: Director's Report

Highlights by Division

Street Use/Urban Forestry

Spring Windstorm Impacts: A mid-May strong weather system moved through the Puget Sound which brought moderately strong winds to the Seattle area. The peak gust measured at Sea-Tac airport on May 13 was 38 mph. These winds resulted in several tree failures in Seattle and surrounding areas. Urban Forestry worked long hours for several days addressing broken and fallen trees. Street Maintenance crews also responded to wind related damage.

Personnel: Darren Morgan has accepted the position of Urban Forestry's new Manager 3. Darren will be working directly with the team effective immediately to manage the transition.

Street Maintenance

Delridge Way SW Paving Project: Phase 3 of the Delridge Way SW Paving Project, between SW Thistle and SW Holden streets, began the week of May 13th. Southbound traffic will be detoured at SW Holden Street via 35th Avenue SW through mid-July. Meanwhile, crews are finishing crack seal work in Phase 1, between SW Henderson and SW Trenton streets. Then they plan to stripe both Phase 1 and Phase 2, between SW Trenton and SW Thistle. This work does not require a detour but does restrict on-street parking. The Delridge Paving Project has five phases, expected to wrap up by the end of the year. The Bridging the Gap funded arterial maintenance effort rebuilds much of the roadway between SW Roxbury and SW Orchard streets and adds new storm drain facilities.



Capital Projects/Roadway Structures

Mercer Corridor West: At a media session held to brief reporters the week of May 13th, SDOT announced traffic changes for the two and a half year Mercer West project that is now ramping up as the Mercer East project nears completion. During the weekend of May 18, parts of Aurora Avenue North and Mercer Street were closed to set up longer-term lane restrictions required for construction. Project Manager Eric Tweit recommended ways for drivers to get around the area and advised people to allow more time for their trips.

When the project is completed, it will be easier for drivers to get from I-5 to the Seattle Center and to get from the future SR 99 tunnel to westbound Mercer. This will be aided by the state's work to reconnect several streets now cut off by Aurora, which will also help improve local circulation between South Lake Union and the Seattle Center. Mercer West's work will also result in wider sidewalks and a separated bike lane to enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Aurora RapidRide Pedestrian Improvement Project: The Aurora RapidRide Pedestrian Improvement Project, a collaborative effort with King County Metro, has reached 100% design. The project will involve the construction of a number of new sidewalks and curb ramps along Aurora (along with the associated channelization, lighting, drainage, and landscaping components), as well as the installation of a new traffic signal at 95th & Aurora. The improvements are intended to support Metro's RapidRide E Line, which is slated to begin operation in February 2014, and will operate between the Aurora Village Transit Center and downtown Seattle.

Belltown/Uptown TPCI: Now at 90% design, the Belltown/Uptown Transit Priority Corridor Improvement project will install new electric trolley wires on Denny Way between First and Third Avenues. The goal is to speed up southbound trolleys from Queen Anne, Uptown, and Seattle Pacific University to downtown and the First Hill/Central Area neighborhoods. Construction is slated to begin late in the third quarter of this year and be completed in early 2014.

Linden Avenue N Complete Street Project: This Complete Streets pilot project to redevelop the Linden Avenue North Corridor between N 128th and N 145th streets has won a Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2040 Award. Award winners must show evidence of innovation and positive reception from community, as well as meet two of eight key criteria. The Linden Ave N project increases opportunities and incentives to walk, bicycle or use public transit; and is a

strategic and innovative investment in facilities that support the development of livable communities.

Airport Way Public Works Award: The Airport Way South Viaduct team was awarded the *2013 APWA Public Works Project of the Year* in the Transportation category (\$25-\$75 Million).

Completing this project was necessary to maintain a safe and reliable transportation corridor for vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. Despite some major challenges – namely protecting a 16-inch high-pressure gas line and a 12-inch leaded joint cast iron water line; the ground improvements/stabilization requirements; and working near and over mainline railroad tracks, the project still managed to rehabilitate a badly deteriorated bridge structure and restore it to its full capacity. Overcoming multiple challenges through close cooperation and innovative problem solving, the project team was able to complete this project on schedule and under budget.

CPRS Annual Staff Meeting: The Capital Projects and Roadway Structures Division held a successful annual All Staff meeting on May 14, 2013. Peter Hahn presented service awards and thanked the staff for a great year. Many other accolades were given but special Director's Award were presented by Mike Terrell to Sue Byers for her outstanding commitment to delivering SDOT's Arterial Asphalt and Concrete Program as well as the First Hill Streetcar; Jana Duran for her excellent customer service to Department Management and Project Staff while in the middle of our budgeting and BIP cycle and for being responsive to numerous audit requests; Corey Jurcak for his dedication to the CPRS Design Group as well as his own project delivery while also filling in for the vacant Design Manager position; and Steve Solusod for his initiative in implementing our electrical "tag out / lock out" program. It was a great opportunity for us to acknowledge all of the CPRS team's' hard work and achievements.

Personnel: Cheryl Ooka is retiring. Cheryl has provided 28 years of service - in a variety of departments and positions - to the City of Seattle. Here at SDOT she has formulated and overseen the maturation of the Project Controls function in CPRS and developed the current systems and processes for our Consultant Contracting process.

Policy and Planning

Puget Sound Bike Share Announces Operating Partner For Spring, 2014 Launch: Puget Sound Bike Share (PSBS) recently announced that it had selected Portland-based Alta Bicycle Share as its operator/vendor. Alta will work with PSBS to plan, launch and sustain a regional bike share network beginning with approximately 500 bikes and 50 stations in Seattle and eventually

expanding into other areas of the Puget Sound region. One of the most experienced bike share companies in North America, Alta is the vendor/operator behind the highly successful Capital Bike Share in Washington D.C. and Boston's Hubway. In the coming months, Alta will launch Citibike in New York City, the largest bike share network in the nation, as well as systems in Chicago, Vancouver, B.C., Portland and San Francisco.

Personnel: Jonathan Williams joins Mobility Programs as new Senior Parking Planner. The Policy and Planning Division is excited to announce that Jonathan Williams joined the Mobility Programs team as a Senior Planner to manage the Community Parking Program and the Annual Parking Study. Jonathan comes to SDOT from Fehr & Peers, where he's been a Transportation Planner. At Fehr & Peers, his experiences include site-specific parking plans, community transportation master plans, and analyzing parking policies as part of the King County Right Size Parking consultant team. In addition to his local experiences, Jonathan brings very unique parking skills, including being a teaching assistant for Professor Donald Shoup (celebrated author of "The High Cost of Free Parking") at UCLA while he was getting his Master's degree, and being an intern for the LA DOT as they developed and launched their performance-based SmartPark program.



First Hill Streetcar Project Contractor Pours First Passenger Platforms: The contractor for the First Hill Streetcar project poured concrete and placed decorative inlays at the future Yesler and Broadway streetcar stop this week, the first two of fourteen platforms. Each platform includes decorative stainless steel inlays which tell the topographic story of the neighborhoods served by the streetcar, including a representative of the topographic contour of the entire alignment, and the elevation of each station along the hilly alignment.



SR99 Tunnel Project – Free Parking at Waterfront Garages on Mother’s Day: Patrons visiting the Waterfront took advantage of free parking on Mother’s Day. Following the success of last year’s Mothers Day Parking Promotion, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and City of Seattle, partnered with several waterfront businesses and parking facilities to offer up to four hours of free parking from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, May 12. The Mother’s Day promotion is part of a broader strategy to maximize parking near construction on the Waterfront and in Pioneer Square. Since August 2011, WSDOT and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) have been working to identify and implement strategies to mitigate on-street parking losses due to SR 99 tunnel construction. The agencies launched www.DowntownSeattleParking.com, an interactive, mobile-friendly website that features hours, rates and directions for nearby parking facilities in these neighborhoods. The site helps drivers locate convenient parking that matches on-street, metered parking rates.

Traffic Management

Traffic Management Center featured on Evening Magazine: KING 5’s Meeghan Black hosted Evening Magazine from SDOT’s Traffic Management Center, broadcast on Friday, May 10. She interviewed TMC Manager Adiam Emery who explained how commuters can use TMC resources to plan their trips. The wall of TV screens formed an excellent backdrop for Meeghan as she introduced each segment of the show. It was a great opportunity to showcase the TMC.

Seattle Summer Streets Began, Sunday, May 19th: Sunday, May 19, we kicked off Summer Streets at Alki in West Seattle. This free event opens the city's largest public space - its streets - so people can walk, bike, roll, run, skip and shop - without having to watch out for cars.

The Alki Beach Creeps joined forces with us to bring the largest costumed bike parade in West Seattle's 111 year history. Skate Like a Girl held skateboard workshops; Hollow Earth Radio spun tunes in-between live music; Coastal Boutique had a t-shirt tie-dyeing station; Detective Cookie had chess games for the kids; Alki Bike and Board repaired bikes; and the Alki Art Fair—West Seattle's premier art and music showcase—invited local artists to join the fun.



Walk. Bike. Shop. Breathe. Play.

Sunday, May 19, 2013

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Activity Map available](#)

[Detour and Water Shuttle Taxi Map](#)

Personnel: Brian Kemper is retiring: After 32 years with Traffic Management, Brian Kemper is retiring from City service. He has accepted a position with Sound Transit as their Traffic Engineer, and his last day in the SDOT office was May 24.

Dawn Schellenberg is joining the Traffic Management division as the Outreach Coordinator for neighborhood greenways, cycle tracks, and other new bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Dawn has been with the Director's Office, where her projects included organizing the very popular Seattle Summer Streets events, and the Holiday Pedestrian Safety Campaign. Dawn is a past member of the RSJI Change Team and is one of the Citywide Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement team members.

Resource Management

Personnel: Dori Costa is serving as acting Finance Manager with the Resource Management Division. Candice Chin left SDOT last month and Dori has graciously agreed to fill in during the very busy budget season. Dori brings a wealth of SDOT experience with her to this position.